The Descent of the Family of Statham, The Compendium of American Genealogy and the Morris-Statham Family Bible

The Descent of the Family of Statham (DFS)[2874] and *The Compendium of American Genealogy* (CAG)[2875] both contain information on the first Stathams to arrive in the colonies. The *Morris-Statham Family Bible*[2876] (MS) was compiled by Mary Beaumont Statham[2877] for her sister sometime after Elizabeth Statham married Robert Page Waller Morris in 1877. Mary was also the source for the information in DFS on the American Stathams,[2878] and probably most of the Statham information contained in CAG.

There are some errors and disputable assertions in all three of these sources:

1. CAG gives the wife of Hugh Statham as Jane Love. That she was the Jane Statham who died in 1702/3 Northumberland County, Virginia[2879] is an easy conjecture to make since Stathams appear to have been relatively scarce on the ground and Hugh had died there in 1700.[2880] But no source or evidence for the claim that her maiden name was Love has ever surfaced, to my knowledge, so it is impossible to evaluate its credibility.

2. MS records that Love Statham's mother was a Lawrence; CAG indicates there is no proof of this, and I would agree. Given the apparent absence of extant corroborating evidence, the Lawrence claim may have been based on family oral history. The same caveat applies to the information that Love's wife was a Meriwether. As far as I know, no Statham researcher has been able to find direct or even sufficiently convincing circumstantial evidence of either claim. The first may stem from the mention of a Lawrence Statham in the *Executive Journals, Councils of Colonial Virginia*[2881] and a common assumption that a son's unusual given name must have been his mother's maiden name.

3. DFS skipped a generation, showing Love as the son rather than the grandson of Hugh. Though the name of Hugh's (presumed) son Edmund Statham was not as prevalent in early Virginia records, he did make at least two known appearances – as a witness to a 1692 Essex County deed[2882] and in 1702 York County court records.[2883] MS does include Edmund in the lineage but his name appears to have been inserted after the others.[2884]

[2874] S.P.H. Statham, *The Descent of the Family of Statham* (London: Times Book Company Limited, 1925), 91.
[2875] Frederick Adams Virkus, *The Compendium of American Genealogy*, seven volumes (1930; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968), 4: 628.
[2876] Morris-Statham Family Bible record 1667-1947, Accession 28126. Miscellaneous Microfilm Reel 445, The Library of Virginia, Richmond.
[2877] Mary Beaumont and Elizabeth Statham, daughters of Charles Wesley Statham (p. 196).
[2878] Statham, *The Descent of the Family of Statham*, 91.
[2879] Northumberland County, Virginia Order Book, 1699-1713, Reel 49, Library of Virginia, Richmond; p. 241, 17 March 1702/3, entry for nuncupative will of Jane Stathem.
[2880] Ibid.; p. 134, 16 October 1700, entry for will of Hugh Stathem.
[2881] H.R. McIlwaine, editor, *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, six volumes (Richmond, Virginia: Division of purchase and Printing, 1930), 4:234.
[2882] Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Essex County, Virginia Record Abstracts, 1693-1694* (McLean, Virginia: The Antient Press, 1991): 94, 27 December 1692, Jonathan Fisher of the Parish of St. Stevens in the County of King & Queen, to Robt. Tayler of the Parish of Farnam in the County of Essex; witnesses James Tayler and Edmund Statham.

4. CAG gives 1817 as the year that Love Statham's son, Charles,[2885] died but he was on the 1820 census for Rutherford County, Tennessee[2886] and left a will there that was proved in 1826.[2887] CAG also makes reference to Charles being in Georgia, but all the evidence suggests he was never in that state, and that the Georgia Charles was John Statham's son.

5. MS gives the parents of Rhoda Hill, wife of Richmond Statham,[2888] as William Hill and Rhoda (Gresham) Watkins. However, William's widow was Ann Hill[2889] and they were very likely the William Hill and Ann Davis who married in Prince Edward County, Virginia in 1776.[2890]

DFS is an ambitious book that looks to have been extensively researched but even the author could only speculate as to how the American Stathams fit in with the lines he detailed. He posits that Hugh may have descended from William Statham, the son of John Statham of Derbyshire. Unfortunately for this theory, said William was born in 1633, and Hugh had to be born no later than 1646 to be of age by the time he was named John Peirce's executor in 1667. That doesn't leave William of Derbyshire much begetting time unless he possessed that precocious virility not uncommonly reflected on public trees. So until some industrious Statham researcher is able to credibly pinpoint whence Hugh sprang, the idea that he ultimately descended from Sir Ralph de Stathum, "companion in arms of some of the most noted soldiers of his day," can only be an entertaining theory.

[2883] York County, Virginia, Deeds, Orders and Wills 1698-1706, v. 11-12, FHL microfilm no. 34,406, 19 November 1702, Rev. Cope D'Oyley, deceased, sale of estate.
[2884] Morris-Statham Family Bible record 1667-1947.
[2885] Charles S. Statham, son of Love (p. 23).
[2886] 1820 U.S. census, Rutherford County, Tennessee, population schedule, p. 88, line 29, Charles S. Statham; digital images, *Ancestry.com*, citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 124.
[2887] Rutherford County, Tennessee, Probate Court Books, 1795-1927, Inventories, Settlements, Wills, 1820-1832, *FamilySearch*, Charles Statham, 1826.
[2888] Richmond Statham, son of Charles S. (p. 87).
[2889] Campbell County, Virginia, Chancery Records Index Number 1826-002, Richmond Statham & wife, etc. vs. John Thurmond & wife, etc.
[2890] "Virginia, Select Marriages 1785-1940," database, *Ancestry.com*, 2 November 1776, William Hill and Ann Davis.